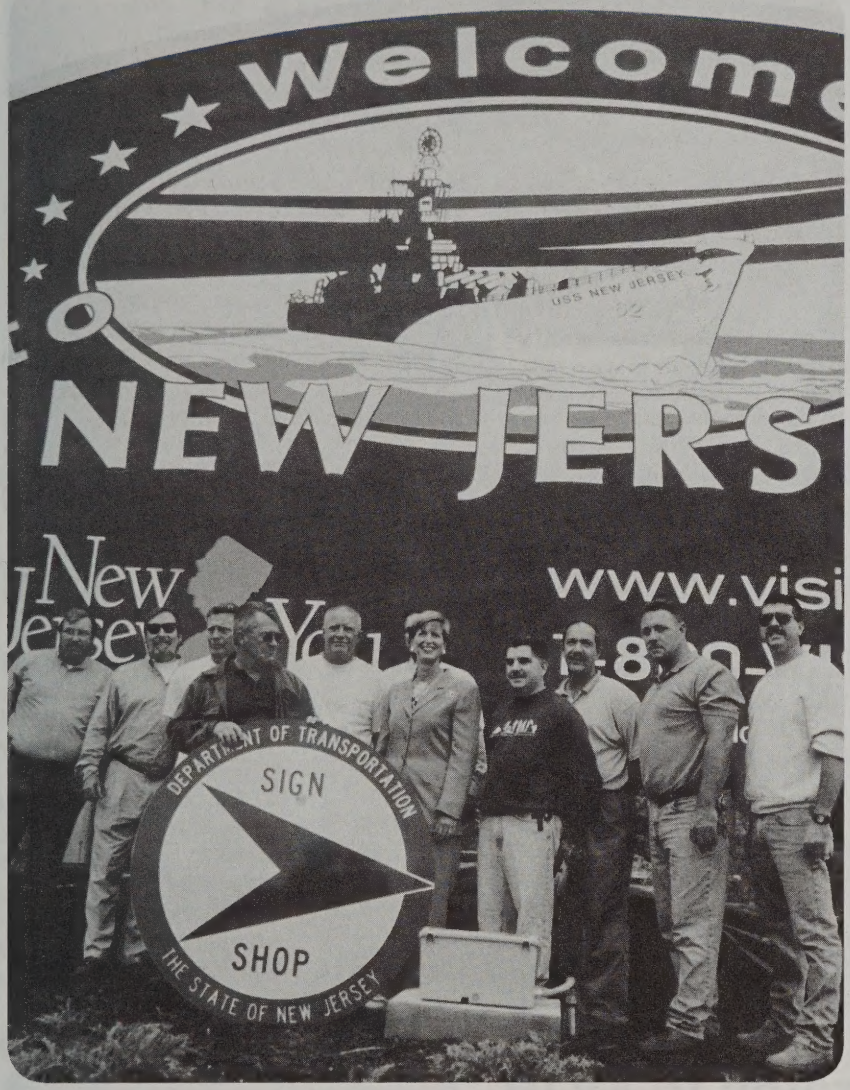
Transporter
Vol. 34 No. 5 June/July 2000

Jumbo sign welcomes visitors to state



A new gateway "Welcome to New Jersey" sign greets motorists who cross the Ben Franklin Bridge from Philadelphia to Route 30 (Admiral Wilson Boulevard) in Camden. Governor Christie Whitman unveiled the maroon, white and blue 16' by 24' sign featuring the Battleship USS New Jersey last month.

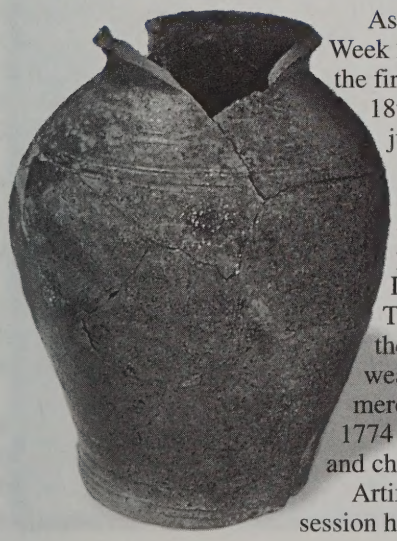
The battleship has a naval history spanning four wars and now has a planned retirement in Camden harbor. "It sends the message of our proud history and bright future," said Governor Whitman.

The second largest sign fabricated in the NJDOT Sign Shop, the battleship logo was interpreted by Communications' Graphic Artist **Frank Bridgewater** for the project. Its terraced and flowered landscape setting was designed by **David Byers** of Landscape Design.

Continued on back page

(*Left*) Sign Shop employees Edd Feller, Reid Bryant, Dave Hart, Robert Parsons, Nick Despari, Dave Bowlby, Mike De Bonis, Vince Gervasoni, John Howell and Ken Mihalic proudly gather with Governor Christie Whitman in front of the first view visitors will have of the state as they cross the bridge from Philadelphia. (*Above*) Gateway Project's Resident Engineer Ron D'Adamo and Resident Manager Ed Pennell surround Office of Portway's Manager Jim Snyder minutes before the official unveiling of New Jersey's 'welcome' sign.

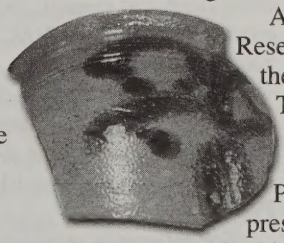
Fabulous find kicks off Historic Preservation Week 2000



As Historic Preservation Week 2000 began, attendees at the first session on May 18 saw 18th Century treasures found just days before.

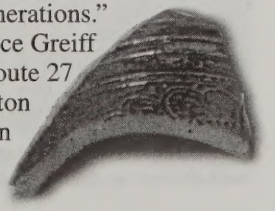
Construction crews working on the Route 29 project discovered a 225 year-old pottery kiln in the Lamberton Port section of Trenton. One of three in the country, it was built by wealthy Philadelphia merchant William Richards in 1774 to produce teacups, jugs and chamber pots.

Artifacts on display at the session held in Headquarters E&O Building included pottery shards from the kiln site, which will be cleaned and catalogued for dated reference to other digs and finds according to pottery expert, former NJDOT Commissioner David Goldberg.



Archaeologist Ian Burrow of Hunter Research Inc. was monitoring the project when they unearthed the kiln. "It is important for Trenton and useful for other archaeological studies in the region," said Burrows, speaker at the first session of the 2000 Program. "We will rebury the kiln site to preserve it for future generations."

To wrap up the 2000 Program, Constance Greiff of Heritage Studies spoke about historic Route 27 also known as Kings Highway from Kingston to Lawrenceville and Stacey Spies spoke on the Garden State Parkway at a special May 30 presentation.

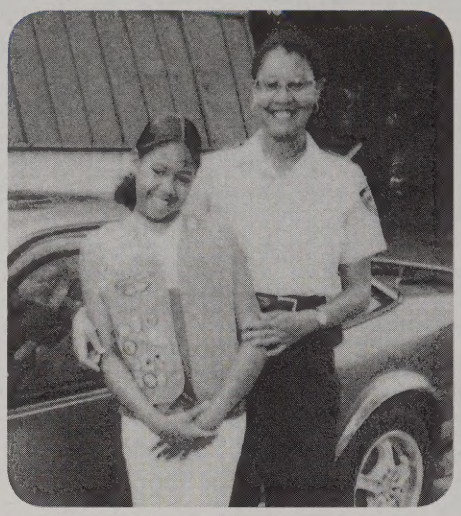


Washington helps develop 'can do' attitudes

Examination Technician **LaVerne Washington** knows first hand a girl's attitude is an indicator of her future. And she's leading others, particularly her 12-year-old daughter Tiffany, in that direction.

When Washington finishes her day in Driver Testing at the Camden Agency, she volunteers as a Troop Helper for Girl Scout Troop #455.

"I do cookie booth sales," she said. But there's much more. "I help the girls with crafts and volunteer activities. We do baby bundles: we choose an expectant mother and give her baby things. We go camping, canoeing and hiking once a year. We meet with the Brownies and the Daisies — the younger groups — to help them get to the next level of scouting. I also prepare snacks for the girls and drive to and from the meetings."



Washington beams with pride as she stands with her daughter Tiffany, who wears a vest covered with Girl Scout badges.

Of her daughter Tiffany, Washington says, "She's been a scout for seven years and has just earned a bronze award, when a girl bridges from a junior scout to a Cadette, which she'll be this fall. She completed the activities and badges on her own . . . I'm very proud of her and it's brought us closer together because we do things together."

Washington's opinion of the Girl Scouts organization is high. "It builds self-esteem and allows them to interact with other girls from all races, backgrounds and areas," she said.

Dad Michael Hall, Safety Specialist in the Bus Unit and one-year-old brother Donzell think the Girl Scouts are great too, particularly at cookie sale time.

Here's your chance to register your views of transportation

Employees who have something to say about the future of transportation in the state now have the chance to make themselves heard.

The Department and NJTRANSIT needs to know what you think about the changes you'd like in the state's highways, public transportation and walking and biking trails as they update the state's long-range plan, Transportation Choices 2025.

Although the plan's development is the Bureau of Statewide Planning's (Division of Transportation Systems Planning) responsibility, Project Manager Joe Meheski knows a truly operational transportation plan needs ownership by NJDOT and NJTRANSIT employees.

This plan also needs input from the public, key stakeholders, state residents and from the transportation and planning agencies in New Jersey and neighboring states to identify crucial transportation issue and develop responses to them.

Here's how you can become a part of the plan that will set transportation policies, strategies and programs to guide New Jersey's transportation agencies for the next 25 years:

- sign on www.njchoices.com
- read about the plan in English or Spanish
- click on "Your Interests"
- click on "You Tell Us" to complete the survey

You can also make a suggestion and view upcoming meetings, get on the mailing list, then go to "Related Sites" to find out what else is happening in the state; or play the "Budget Game."

You'll see the results of your efforts at the end of 2000 when the draft of the new plan with input from all contributors is posted on the Web site for further comments.

Research Library migrates to MOB

Librarian Carol Paszamant straightens new bookshelves in the new library location.

Director of the Division of Research and Technology **William Hoffman** announced the new location of the NJDOT Research Library in the Main Office Building's north wing on the third floor last month. NJDOT's expansion and the HVAC renovation prompted the move.

"We installed new metal shelving to replace the old wooden shelves that were sagging under the weight of all the reports and books," said Librarian Carol Paszamant.

For reference services, literature searches or documents, send Paszamant or Principal Libarary Assistant John Boross an e-mail at: *cpaszamant@cpm.dot.state.nj,* or call them at (609) 530-5289.

Transporter

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People Briefs

Banks enjoys active retired life

"I miss the people, but I don't miss working," stated Jean Banks, who retired on June 1.

The MIS Technician began her career with NJDOT in 1969 as a clerical trainee in the Central Services Office and ended her career in the Accounts Payable Office, Vendor Accounts.

"Over the years I've paid all different vendor invoices for paper, chairs, windows, motor vehicle photographs, gasoline for NJDOT vehicles — anything that the Department uses. Now my life includes other things," she said.

Heavily involved in academic scholarships for children, the Ewing resident just arrived home from the NJ State Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) Convention in Somerset and is off to the National (U.S.) B.P.O.E. Convention in Atlanta, GA.

Banks

Besides the Elks programs, Banks is planning some trips with friends and with her husband. "Last April we went to Cozumel, Mexico and to New Orleans. Now it's just a matter of deciding where to go. One thing, though, it won't be work."

Joining Banks in retirement are May 1 retirees **Stephen Garibaldi**, Supervisor of Landscape Maintenance after 39 years; **Stanley Klosinski**, Sign Fabricator 1 after 36 years; **Richard Suozzi**, Supply Support Technician 1 after 35 years; and **Sallie Geist**, MVS Records Technician 2.

Additional June 1 retirees are **Paul Vaughn**, Electrical Mechanic after 34 years and **Anthony Hauser**, Highway Construction & Bridge Repairer 2 after 27 years. **David Walls**, Assistant Regional Electrical Supervisor retired July 1 after 39 years.

Marriages

Newly-weds **Michele Laureti** of the Bureau of Research and Fred Brodzinski are settling into their Hamilton Township home after honeymooning in Italy. They wed on May 19.

After **Bart Ritorto** and Beverly Gulden married in Sayen Gardens, Hamilton Township on June 10, they headed for the Cedar Point OH theme park with 12 roller coasters. Fans of the elevated rail ride, the Aeronautical Operations Specialist and his bride also stopped at Hershey Park.

Walking, writing make Paulus a winner

When Executive Assistant **Nancy Paulus** of the Office of Community Relations waxed poetic about her walks along the D&R Canal in West Trenton, her entry won in the spring Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Mercer County "Let Us Know" essay challenge about the subject of walking or of biking.

Paulus wrote in part ". . . My walks wind through the park's many trails and back to West Trenton . . . such a scenic and peaceful atmosphere — nature and history hovers over my shadows as I replenish both my physical and mental strengths."

In addition to the entry appearing in the TMA "Ridefinder" newsletter, Paulus received a prize T-shirt, which she will wear on her future walks.

Obituaries

Retired MVS Supervisor **Willa Bethea-Horne** died April 28 in Philadelphia. Survivors include her husband James T. Sr., daughters Lorraine, Cynthia and Gail, sons Victor and James T. Jr., stepmother Henrietta Bethea and brothers Philip Bethea and Jeremiah James.

Retired MVS employee **Dorothy L. Wilkie** died May 2 in Hamilton. Survivors include her sisters Margaret Gryziewicz and Beatrice Howarth.

Former MVS clerk **Lucy Costner** died May 19 in Hamilton. Survivors include her sister Marie Sorgenti, her brothers Michael, Vincent and Vito Rubino.

Army veteran of World War II **Edward M. Dalhaus** died May 20 in Hopewell Township. The retired NJDOT Electrical Engineer is survived by his wife Veronica, son Frank E., daughters Kathleen McAndrew and Claire M. Riili, a sister Mildred and grandchildren.

Army veteran of World War II **James J. Gallavan** died May 27 in Hudson, FL. An NJDOT retiree, Gallavan is survived by his wife Elia.

Retired MVS Clerk **Marie M. Duffy** died May 29 in Philadelphia. Survivors include her son James, daughter Eileen Kelly and a grandson.

Mary Sue Chiacchio died May 30 in Trenton. Retired from MVS in 1978, Chiacchio is survived by her son Frank, daughters Anne Foley, Nancy Brokofsky and Mary Ellen Briggs, brothers Don, Ralph, Herman, Albert, Patrick and Umile Mantuano and a sister Ann Santoro.

Geographic Information Specialist **Barry J. Hancock** died June 6 in Trenton. The 23-year NJDOT veteran was a Native American (Lenni Lenape) who traveled extensively to powwows, conferences and exhibits throughout the country and collected artifacts of native nations. Survivors include his aunt M. Eleanor Perrine Knight and several cousins.

Retired MVS employee **Norma Scartocci** died June 7 in Hamilton Township. Survivors include her sisters-in-law.

Administrative Analyst **Michael L. DeCello** of Trenton died suddenly July 1. Active in the Boy Scouts of America, George Washington Council, and in sports, DeCello was an Eastern League Umpire at Waterfront Park and a member of several umpires associations. Survivors include his wife Elizabeth, Administrative Assistant in NJDOT's Capital Investment and Coordination Unit, sons Michael, James and Joseph, his brother Carmen and a sister Patricia.

Blue Ribbons
Community service

Municipal Park Superintendent Robert Czumbil of the Ewing Township Recreation Department praised NJDOT staff for their community service hours improving the landscape in Banchoff Park. Clint Griggs, Danielle DeJohn, Deb Stevenson (*left*) and Meg Frampton (*right*) plant flowers near the tennis courts. Workers not included in the picture were George Caruso, Janis DeJohn, Laurie Gutshaw, Kate Immordino, Steve Kook, Nancy Paulus, Ken and Katie Stevenson and Cheryl Taliaferro who also worked on this project.

Client thanks

Right of Way Negotiator **Rebecca Dalton** of the Central Region received kudos from property owner Lorraine Cirello in Raritan.

Cirello wrote, " . . . Dalton had a professional attitude, excellent followup skills and was able to bring the deal to fruition without compromising procedure or protocol . . ."

Top notch work

Joanne M. Willey, Professional Engineer of T&M Associates, sent a "thank you" to Maintenance Engineer Eugene Shoup of the Central Region for expediting the paving work at the Route 1 and Carnegie Center Drive ramps in West Windsor Township. Willey praised the workmanship and the scheduling that least impacted drivers.

Help the Memorial!

Now that the building of the NJDOT Employee Memorial is under way and the dedication ceremonies are scheduled for September 8 at 11 a.m., you may want to be part of the process by contributing to the fund through:

- a regular contribution. You'll be on record in the Employee Memorial Time Capsule.
- the purchase of a T-shirt or a cap.

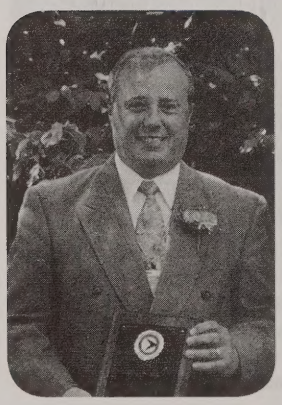
Past and present employees may contact Nancy Webber at (609) 530-6456 for information about donations or purchases.

Attention, golfers!

Be part of the First Annual NJDOT Golf Outing at the Miry Run Country Club in Robbinsville at 10 a.m. on September 11. The all-day outing that ends with a full dinner at 6 p.m. has its net proceeds earmarked for the Employee Memorial Fund. The event is open only to the first 128 paid golfers.

Open to all current and retired NJDOT and MVS employees, the $75 fee includes greens fees, golf cart, lunch, prizes, refreshments and the dinner buffet. For non-golfers and special guests only attending the dinner, the cost is $25.

Send your name, unit, telephone number, team and check made out to DOT Golf Outing to Howard W. Immordino at NJDOT Headquarters, MOB, Station No. 2546N .



Stella celebrates move from mail clerk to manager

Of course it took him 40 years, from 1959 to 1999. Richard Stella received the 40-year service award along with Deputy Comissioner Albert Ari and Support Services Manager Don Chiacchio at outdoor ceremonies presided over by Commissioner James Weinstein in May. Forty-nine other employees received awards from 35 to 5 years of service.

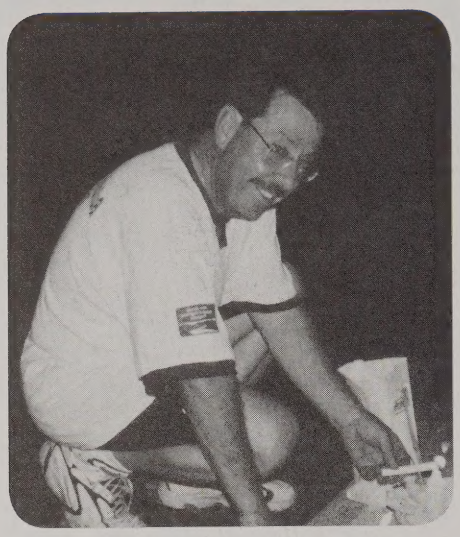
Currently a Manager in the Bureau of Records, Services & Warehousing, Stella served in many posts in Motor Vehicle Services and NJDOT.

New Social Security ruling affects 125 employees

For the 125 NJDOTers who are 65 or older and work full time, the new Social Security ruling may positively affect their annual earnings. Rich Taylor of Human Resources says recent legislation allows all persons of full retirement age to earn any amount of money and still collect full Social Security benefits. There is no longer a penalty for earning too much money.

Information on this new ruling, on an increase in retirement age, a retirement calculator and choices for early benefits (before age 65) is on the Administration's Web site: www.ssa.gov or available at your local Social Security office.

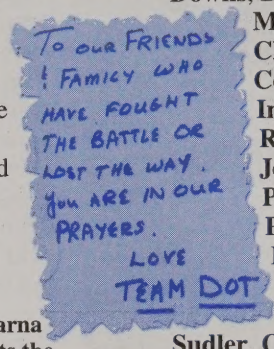
NJDOT runs 'Relay for Life'



Team DOT ran the 15-hour Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society on June 2 and 3.

Coordinator of the event **Pat Bowker** announced collections totalled $7,028 which will be donated in memory of NJDOT employee Kathy Grasselli and family members Gladys Luciano and Mary Jane Seaman.

Registered running team members included **Kathy Albertson, Joe Barna, Sue Belko, Pat Berkey, Mary Bock, Pat Bowker, Ray Burroughs, Manny Capilli, Kathy Cox, Tony Davis, Janice Downs, Dick Dunne, Charlie Dimenna, Meg Frampton, Leon Fulginiti, Clint Griggs, Rita Hewitson, Connie House, Kate Immordino, Mary Kruszewski, Rich Lawrence, Rich Luciano, Joe Mycock, Jim Paral, Ruth Pecarsky, John Pezik, Doreen Plummer, Leon Reisner, Rod Roberson, Jill Sentak, Bob Signora, Pat Sondej, Gary Stout, John Stults, Linda Sudler, Cindy Szucsik, Phil Whitting, Ceil Witkowski, Steve Witkowski** and **Al Woodrow**.



(*Left*) **Master Mechanic Joe Barna of Motor Vehicle Services lights the way to keep Team DOT running the Relay for Life through the night.**

Craft festival offers varied artistry

Secretarial Assistant I Sandy Deon in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer admires the Native American exhibit by Maria Jones.

Employee handiwork displayed at the Department's first Craft Festival/Art Show held in May at NJDOT Headquarters and Motor Vehicle Services Headquarters as part of the Millennium Celebration took on many forms.

The demonstrations and exhibits are expected to be expanded in the fall, according to chairperson **Cora Sue Santopietro** of Communications.

The spring exhibiters included **Steven Cohen**, pottery; **Dawn Hatch**, quilting; **Kate Immordino**, counted cross stitch; **Maria Jones**, Native American crafts; **Cora Sue Santopietro**, hand stamped stationery; **Laurie Sharpe**, floral arranging; **Shan Sundaram**, sculpture; **Binh Vo**, pencil sketches; **Anker Winther**, abstract sculpture; **Leslie Ziegler**, machine quilting; **Donna Zucchetti**, abstract art.

Judges pick two winners in New Jersey contest

Choosing winners in four age categories from 1200 art entries isn't an easy job, but the judges of New Jersey's 2000 "Flight into the Future" Art Contest picked two winners who went on to the national and international contests.

Ryan Czepiel of Ewing and Maria Tuchinsky of Red Bank won first and second place in the 6-9 age category in New Jersey, then went on to win first and third place in the national contest in Washington, D.C.

Although they also competed in the International Aviation Art Contest at Lausanne, Switzerland, three American entries — two from Kentucky and one from California — took top prizes. The contest is sponsored by the National Association of State Aviation Officials and the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

Visiting Artist Mike O'Neal, FAA Tech Control's Colleen Jenna Stoltzfus (*second from far right*) **and NJDOTers, Freight Systems Tom Harcar, Personnel's Pat Vannozzi, Aeronautics' Greg McDonough, and Communications Office's Debbi Hutton and Glenn Catana judged the entries in the New Jersey Aviation Art Contest.**

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Immordino earns ASPA award

Special Assistant to the Commissioner **Kathleen Immordino** stood out as unique when the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) presented its annual awards in June at ceremonies held in the New Jersey Network (NJN) Studios in Trenton.

As one of 10,000 practitioners, scholars, teachers and students in the ASPA, Immordino received the Joseph E. McLean Chapter Service/Development Award for her efforts above and beyond the call of duty. She joins other NJDOT award winners: Administrative Analyst Kenneth Stevenson, 1993; Administrative Analyst Deborah Stevenson, 1992; and former NJDOT Assistant Commissioner Christine Cox, 1990's Public Administrator of the Year.

ASPA advances the science, processes an art of public administration while it affirms its responsibility to develop the spirit of professionalism and increase public awareness of ethical principles in public service.

Proudly displaying her award, Kathleen Immordino of the Commissioner's office is flanked by former and present ASPA Chapter Presidents Warren Barclay and Bob Goertz.

Jumbo sign Continued from front page

Production of the sign required the efforts of many Department employees. Sign Shop employees **Reid Bryant**, **Vince Gervasoni**, **Edd Feller**, **John Howell**, **Jeff Reliford**, **Mike DeBonis**, **Dave Hart**, **Tom Otter**, **Butch Parsons**, **Attilio Avino**, **Ken Mihalic**, **Nick Gaspari** and **Jim Barclay** fabricated the outdoor greeting.

NJDOT employees who also contributed to the project are Project Manager **Ed Pennell** and Resident Engineer **Ron D'Adamo** of the Gateway Project; **Jay Patel** of Structural Design, Electrical Engineer **Steve Haight**, **Andrew Verdi** of the Paint Shop, Pennsauken Maintenance Yard employees **William Vilei**, **Charles Teschko**, **Jeff Ridgway**, **William Damask**, **John Wild**, **Tom Zizarelli**, **Joe McGonigle** and **Tony Teidl**, and Cherry Hill Electrical Regional Office Crew 482 members **Rod Parker**, Crew Supervisor, **Peter Ortiz**, Electrical Mechanic, **Daniel Sharpless**, Electrical Mechanic Trainee and **Russel Kershaw**, Electrical Mechanic Trainee.